



Juan Fregoso <juan.fregoso@lacity.org>

Update on Clifford Elementary School Encampments

5 messages

Thu, Jan 16, 2020 at 2:21 PM

To: "Gutierrez, Laura" <lguti7@lausd.net>, Rodriguez Mary <mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org>, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, Cho Won <wkc2856@lausd.net>, 30347@lapd.online,

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Dear all,

Let me start by saying I am fully aware that Los Angeles is dealing with a homelessness crisis, and I am by no means vilifying the persons who are suffering in our city. However, the growing encampments right outside of our elementary school are beginning to become very concerning.

We did a community clean up of the open space (the triangle between Glendale and Alessandro) outside Clifford Elementary a couple of years ago, we have had meetings with the councilman's office and local law enforcement at our school, and countless 311 reports and emails and calls have been sent by various parents and community members on the topic. I know principal Gutierrez has put in a lot of work and calls as well. The problem has only continued to worsen.

There are now permanent encampments on both sides of Glendale. The men who reside there are probably fine folks going through a tough time, but nobody knows their identity, and that is worrisome right next door to an elementary school. Their situation is unfair, but it is also unfair for the kids to have to walk through it every day. And it is definitely not great for enrollment in our school. Parents visiting the school and looking at enrolling their child are seeing this as their first impression- it looks like the city does not care about this school or about the area. It would cause me pause if I were in their shoes. I certainly do not see any such encampments a mile up the street outside Ivanhoe Elementary, which is not a title 1 school, and which is in a more affluent neighborhood. It seems the issue is being treated differently here, are Clifford kids are not as valued as Ivanhoe kids?

The community is ready to support any effort to help, to clean up, to provide resources, but we cannot continue to ignore this. This is an elementary school. I have already had to call 911 with my kids in the car when one of the encampment dwellers had fainted/fallen/passed out with his legs in the street at risk of getting run over, we have found syringes under the trees right outside the upper gate of the school, the kids and I walked by a man peeing into the school property through the fence when an additional encampment popped up right outside the school after the summer break.

We need homelessness prevention organizations and city services to come out and provide assistance and services to these folks right away. What is the plan here? What is the 13th doing about this? What is LAUSD doing? We need to work together and make a change. Who is coming out doing outreach to these folks?

I know the councilman is coming to Clifford next week and I will do my best to take off work to attend. I hope these issues can be discussed.

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ail.com>

Thu, Jan 16, 2020 at 3:03 PM

Sylvan De la Cruz <sylvan.delacruz@lacity.org>, Juan Fregoso <juan.fregoso@lacity.org>

Cc: Laura Gutierrez <lguti7@lausd.net>, Rodriguez Mary <mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org>, Mitch O'Farrell <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, Cho Won <wkc2856@lausd.net>, 30347@lapd.online, Juan Fregoso <juan.fregoso@lacity.org>,

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I am on board with you 100%!

To add to your efforts- I have had good communications with Sylvan- cc'ed here- who dispatches clean up crews in the District who I hope will chime in on this concern. It is by no means going anywhere but keeping things contained and solution oriented for the sake of the children and families is a reasonable request and something I know our family is committed to, and an issue for us to remain consistent on.

I will be at the meeting next week- can we please make sure, as Anna asked, that we have it on the agenda- I know Mitch usually has his time blocked out carefully for topics.

Thank you for your email Anna!

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Thu, Jan 16, 2020 at 3:07 PM

Cc: "Gutierrez, Laura" <lguti7@lausd.net>, Cho Won <wkc2856@lausd.net>, Gina Paialii <30347@lapd.online>, Juan Fregoso <juan.fregoso@lacity.org>,

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Thank you for your email. My colleague Juan Fregoso is the field deputy for Clifford Elementary School and he is working with the Principal and the parents on this matter. You are correct that the City of Los Angeles and the County of LA is dealing with a chronic homeless crisis. It is the county under the LA Homeless Service Authority that is outreaching to people in the encampments on a monthly basis. Our office is not ignoring the problem. I am glad to hear that Councilmember O'Farrell is going to visit the school soon. He needs support from parents like you because there are advocates speaking with a very loud voice that do not want to see cleanups of any kind. They protest at our office and at his home whenever they think we are going to clean up an encampment whether it is near a school or in a park. Your support is needed.

Sincerely,

Mary D. Rodriguez

Field Deputy

Silver Lake, Atwater Village & LA River

Office of Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell

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mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org

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Gutierrez, Laura <lguti7@lausd.net>

Thu, Jan 16, 2020 at 3:25 PM

To: Mary Rodriguez <mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org>, Anna E Darr <annaedarr@gmail.com>

, Gina Paialii <30347@lapd.online>, Juan Fregoso <juan.fregoso@lacity.org>,

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Hi everyone!

The encampment on Glendale Blvd. does seem to have grown larger since we've returned from our Winter break. Ms. Cho and I were talking about them this morning. I put in a graffiti removal request today for the utility boxes near the corner, by the Spain Restaurant.

I know Juan Fregoso and Councilperson O'Farrell himself will be at Clifford a week from today, Thurs., Jan. 23 at 8:00AM. If your schedule allows, please come to our meeting so you can share concerns with them in person. Our council office and our LAPD Senior Lead Officer Gina Paialii have always been super responsive to our concerns, so I anticipate having a productive dialogue. I'll also inform our neighbors who continue to be vigilant and report concerns to me, as well.

Hope to see you then!

Laura Gutierrez
Principal

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"The Small School with a Big Heart"

Pandas have PRIDE

*P*erseverance

*R*espect

*I*ntegrity

*D*etermination

*E*xcellence

From: Mary Rodriguez <mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org>

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 3:07 PM

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Cc: Gutierrez, Laura <lguti7@lausd.net>; Cho, Won <wkc2856@lausd.net>; Gina Paialii <30347@lapd.online>; Juan Fregoso <juan.fregoso@lacity.org>;

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Subject: Re: Update on Clifford Elementary School Encampments

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Juan Fregoso <juan.fregoso@lacity.org>

To: Anna E Darr <annaedarr@gmail.com>

Cc: "Gutierrez, Laura" <lguti7@lausd.net>; Cho, Won <wkc2856@lausd.net>; Gina Paialii <30347@lapd.online>

Thu, Jan 16, 2020 at 5:51 PM

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Hi Anna,

Thank you for reaching out to our office. This location is and has been on our schedule for services. Please note that does not mean that any one encampment can and will be removed indefinitely.

We have been working with the local neighbors and the school on a lot of their concerns. If you would like to schedule a call to further discuss what we have been doing to address some of the homeless issues and how you can support our efforts not only here, but throughout our District, I can make myself available to schedule a call.

We hope you can attend next week, the Councilmember looks forward to providing some updates from his last visit to Clifford Elementary and as I mentioned, some of our on going efforts to address the homeless crisis within our neighborhoods.

Thank you again for reaching out to our office.

On Thu, Jan 16, 2020 at 2:22 PM

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wrote:

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Juan Antonio Fregoso

Field Deputy - Echo Park, Historic Filipinotown, Rampart Village, and Westlake N.

Office of Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District

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